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not entirely devoid of intelligence. In one series of experiments a piece of tubing was placed over one of the rays of a brittle star, so as to enclose it from its base nearly to its apex. Different individuals adopted different modes of ridding themselves of the tube, and one failing, would try another. Sometimes they rubbed the tube off by friction on the ground; if this was useless, they would hold down the tube with the other rays while drawing the imprisoned ray through it, or they would push the tube off with the serrated edges of the two adjoining rays, or, as a last resource, would cast off the imprisoned arm.

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

—The meeting of the German Naturalists' Association will be held this year at Wiesbaden, from the 18th to the 24th of September. Herr Dreyfuss, 44 Frankfurter-strasse, Wiesbaden, is the secretary of the local committee.

—The San Diego Natural History Society have had a present of a valuable lot of land, and propose soon to erect a building.

—Dr. R. W. Shufeldt criticises—and deservedly so—the veterinary service of the United States army. He would elevate it by placing it on much the same basis as the regular medical corps.

—John Sang, a British entomologist of note, died March 2, 1887, of valvular disease of the heart, at the age of fifty-nine. He was especially interested in the moths, and was a zoological artist of no mean powers.

—Dr. J. S. Poljakow, the Siberian explorer and conservator of the Zoological Museum of the University of St. Petersburg, died in that city April 17, 1887.

—The late Miss Lucretia Crocker, of the school board of Boston, was influential in the support of the Annisquam laboratory from the year of its foundation, as well as an earnest advocate of the teaching of the biological sciences in the public schools. It is now proposed to raise two "Lucretia Crocker scholarships" in connection with the new Marine Laboratory, to be occupied each season by two teachers of the Boston public schools. Twenty-five hundred dollars are necessary for the purpose.

—Princeton College is to have a new biological laboratory in the early future.

—The new building for the Zoological Museum at Berlin is completed, excepting the internal finishing. This, it is estimated, will take until April 1, 1888, and then the collections will be transposed from their present location in the university building to their future home. On the 1st of May of this year Karl Möbius, formerly ordinary professor of zoology in Kiel, entered upon the duties of director of the Berlin Museum, being thus associated with Professor Dr. Edouard von Martens.

—Johns Hopkins University is to publish, as a memorial volume, the researches of the late Dr. Adam T. Brüce on the Embryology of Insects.

—Armauer Hansen calls attention to a peculiar kind of whale-fishing which has been practised for a long time in the neighborhood of Bergen, Norway. Each year the fishermen take a couple of specimens of the small whale known as *Balænoptera rostrata*. Their implements are the most primitive harpoons, and it would hardly seem as if the insignificant wound they cause could prove serious. In from twenty-four to thirty-six hours the whale shows signs of weakness, and then is readily despatched. It is now found that the region of the first wound is gangrened, and that the weakness was in reality the result of blood-poisoning. All the fishermen now smear their harpoons with the gangrened flesh, and put them away to dry for use another year. M. Gade has carried on some culture experiments with the microbes obtained from the whales for three successive years, and finds each time the same bacteria, principally the same micrococcus. It is a curious fact, as Hansen remarks, that this peculiar use of bacteria and septicæmia should have been known for hundreds of years.

—*Science* has canonized one of the living African explorers. On a map of the African continent given in the issue of May 27 appears "St. Stanley's Falls."

—Professor Prestwich, who for thirteen years has held the chair of geology at Oxford, England, has resigned.

—Dr. Eugene Korschelt, formerly privatdocent and assistant in the Zoological Museum at Freiburg, Bavaria, has taken a similar place at Berlin, while his former position is now occupied by Dr. E. Ziegler.

—The professorship of zoology in the Zoological Institute at Kiel will not be filled until Easter, 1888. Dr. Karl Brandt, privatdocent in Königsberg, has been appointed the interim director.

—Bronn's valuable "Klassen und Ordnungen des Thierreichs" drags its slow length along. The last parts published are Nos. 56 of the Reptiles, by C. K. Hoffmann; 16 and 17 of the Birds, by Hans Gadow; and 29 of the Mammals, by W. Leche.

—Dr. J. S. Kingsley, the junior editor of this magazine, has accepted the professorship of biology in Indiana University. After September 1 his address will be Bloomington, Indiana.

—Professor J. C. Branner, of Indiana University, has been appointed director of the geological survey of Arkansas, with headquarters at Little Rock. The university has granted him a two years' leave of absence.

—The trustees of the Elizabeth Thompson fund have awarded the following sums for the advancement of science: The Natural History Society of Montreal, two hundred dollars, for the investigation of underground temperatures under the direction of a committee of the society; Drs. T. Elsler and H. Geitel, of the Gymnasium of Wolfenbüttel, Germany, two hundred and ten dollars, for researches on the electrization of gases by glowing bodies; Professor E. D. Cope, of Philadelphia, five hundred dollars, for the employment of a preparateur in connection with his researches on fossil vertebrates; E. E. Prince, of St. Andrew's, Scotland, one hundred and twenty-five dollars, for studies on the morphology and development of the limbs of teleosts.

—RECENT DEATHS.—Dr. François P. L. Pollen, a Malagassy explorer, in Leiden, May 7, 1886, aged forty-four; Arthur Edward Knox, an ornithologist, in Dale Park, England, September 23, 1886; Dr. G. A. Fischer, African traveller and ornithologist, in Berlin, November 11, 1886; Dr. William Traill, conchologist, in St. Andrew's, Scotland, December, 1886; Dr. John M. Wheaton, professor of anatomy and ornithologist, in Columbus, Ohio, January 28, 1887; Robert Gray, ornithologist and vice-president of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, in that city, February 18, 1887; Dr. Nathaniel Lieberkuhn, professor of anatomy and student of invertebrates, at Marburg, April 14, 1887, in his sixty-fifth year.

—DEATH OF PROFESSOR WILLIAM ASHBURNER.—Professor Ashburner, mining engineer and geologist, died in San Francisco, April 20, at the age of fifty-six. He studied for his profession at the Lawrence Scientific School of Harvard University, and afterwards at the École des Mines, Paris. Returning to this country in 1854, he visited the mineral region of Lake Superior with the late Professor Rivot, for the purpose of investigating the geology and mineral veins of said country, and subsequently explored a part of the island of Newfoundland, and in 1860 went to California as one of the staff of the geological survey of which Professor J. D. Whitney was director. In pursuance of his profession he travelled extensively through the mining districts of the United States, British Columbia, Mexico, and portions of Asia. He was one of the State commissioners of the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big-Tree Grove from 1864 till 1880, and professor of mining in the University of California, having been appointed in 1874. In 1880 he was made a regent of the university, and was named by the late James Lick as one of the trustees of the California School of Mechanical Arts (one of Mr. Lick's bequests), and was also selected by Mr. Stanford as one of the trustees of the Leland Stanford, Jr., University. Professor Ashburner was identified with all the principal organizations whose object is the intellectual development of the Pacific coast, —the microscopical, geographical, and historical societies,—and for many years he was especially active as one of the trustees of the California Academy of Sciences. In the directions above indicated he was an eminently useful citizen, and his personal bearing and qualities greatly endeared him to many. The death of such a man is a public misfortune.—*R. E. C. S., Washington, D. C.*, May 10, 1887.

PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences.—February 1, 1887.—Dr. Leidy stated that the prevalent opinion that bed-bugs might be introduced by bats and swallows seemed improbable. The insect found on the swallow is related to, yet different from, that which infests houses. On a couple of little bats from Panama Bay he had found an allied, yet different, insect, described by Westwood as *Polyctenes fumarius.* Professor Heilprin stated that the rhizopods identified by Miss Fielde at Swatow as identical with Philadelphia forms were *Difflugia* (two species) and *Arcella vulgaris.* Dr. Koenig gave the analysis of two forms of asbestos from Franklin, N. J., which are distinguished from Sussexite by the absence of the green flame under the blow-pipe.

February 15.—Professor Ryder spoke of the distribution of papillæ giving rise to sensitive or tactile hairs. Such hairs are usually divided into groups, one of which occurs near the eyebrows, one below the eye, and a third lower down. The gray whale of the Pacific coast had more of these tactile hairs than any other cetacean the fœtus of which he had examined. He had recently observed in an embryo kitten an orderly linear arrangement of such hair-papillæ on the back, apparently corresponding to the color-stripes to be developed later. There were none on the limbs and sides. Dr. H. Allen said that he had noted that moles on the human face occupied the same positions as the sensitive hairs of the lower animals. Dr. Allen also stated that in the wombat the biceps muscle passes from the pelvis to the foot, receiving three other muscles before its insertion. He suggested a formula, consisting of the use of arrows in different positions, indicating origin, insertion, direction, etc., so as to save labor in recording details. Professor Heilprin put on record the stranding of a specimen of the Mediterranean Risso's grampus on the coast at Atlantic City. Professor Sharp suggested that the eyes of Onchidium were phosphorescent organs, similar to those he had before described as existing in